

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00753 152023Z

61

ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 SWF-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FS-01 ABF-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 /142 W

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R 151230Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 753

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT DIORI ON DROUGHT MATTERS

1. CHARGE AND RDO BARON MET WITH PRESIDENT DIORI MARCH 6 TO DISCUSS SEVERAL AID MATTERS RELATING TO DROUGHT.

2. RDO BARON PROPOSED TO PRESIDENT DIORI A NATIONAL MILLET PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN (OPERATION MIL) USING IMPROVED SEEDS AND FARMING TECHNIQUES AND DEMONSTRATION PLOTS. HE SAID USG WAS CONSIDERING THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM AS PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE UNDER MEDIUM TERM PHASE II AND A US TEAM WOULD BE ARRIVING BEFORE END OF THE MONTH TO WORK IN CONCERT WITH GON MINISTRIES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES. PRESIDENT FULLY CONCURRED, ADDING THAT HE HAD ALSO IDENTIFIED TWO OTHER MAJOR LINES OF ACTION TO COUNTER THE DROUGHT WHICH INCLUDE: INCREASED IRRIGATION ALONG NIGER RIVER AND LIVESTOCK RECONSTITUTION AND DEVELOPMENT. RDO ADDRESSED SECOND POINT BY SUGGESTING THAT NIGER ASK DONORS TO PARTICIPATE IN A LIVESTOCK WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY GON. WORKING GROUP ULTIMATELY COULD DEVELOP MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM PLANS AND THUS FACILITATE DONOR PARTICIPATION AND FINANCING.

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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00753 152023Z

3. RDO ADDRESSED GON'S PROBLEM OF FINANCING FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND SAID THAT RECENTLY SIGNED PROTOCOL ALLOWED FUNDS RECEIVED FROM US SORGHUM SALES TO BE USED BY GON FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE EXPECTED DETAILS TO BE WORKED OUT SOON WITH GON.

4. MR. BARON PROVIDED PRESIDENT WITH RECAPITULATION OF US GRAIN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER, INCLUDING FUTURE PROJECTIONS PLUS STATUS PEANUT SEED AVAILABILITIES IN US. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR US GENEROSITY BUT POINTED OUT GRAIN DELIVERIES BECOMING CRUCIAL. HE SAID IF GON HAD FIRM ASSURANCES THAT SUFFICIENT GRAIN WOULD ARRIVE NIGER BY JUNE THEN GOVERNMENT WOULD IMMEDIATELY SHIP FOOD FROM SOUTHERN AREAS TO NORTH BEFORE RAINS.

5. IN PARTING PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE BELIEVED TALK HAD SOLVED POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR HIM, NOT ONLY DID "OPERATION MIL" ADDRESS URGENT PROBLEM OF PRODUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, BUT ALSO PROVIDED CHALLENGE TO POLITICAL PARTY TO PLAY DEVELOPMENTAL ROLE.

6. DETAILED MEMCON FOLLOWS.
BUCHE

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005